

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 13, 2002 (Paper No. 5). Claims 1 to 3, 11 to 14, 22 and 25 to 33 are in the application, with Claims 25 to 33 being newly-added. Claims 1, 12 and 33 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

It is noted that this Amendment has been prepared in accordance with the revised format set forth in the Pre-Official Gazette notice entitled "Amendments in a Revised Format Now Permitted" signed January 31, 2003, posted on the USPTO web site.

An objection was lodged against Fig. 8B for containing the following reference sign not mentioned in the description: 875. In response, the specification has been amended to include this reference sign, with no new matter being added.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 19, which were deemed to contain allowable subject matter, have been cancelled, with some of their subject matter being included in new Claims 27 and 31.

Claims 1, 4 to 6, 12 and 15 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,379,335 (Griesmer); Claims 2 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Griesmer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,395 (Tsukamoto); Claims 3 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Griesmer in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,160,906 (Daniels); Claims 7 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Griesmer in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,797,905 (Ochmann); Claims 9, 10, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Griesmer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,228 (Schol); Claims 11 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Griesmer in view

of U.S. Patent No. 4,803,716 (Ammann); and Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Griesmer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,244,507 (Garland). In response, Claims 4 to 10, 15 to 21, 23 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 1 to 3, 11 to 14 and 22 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The present invention as recited by amended Claim 1 concerns an apparatus adapted for radiographing an object. The apparatus includes a grid movement controller adapted for controlling a movement of a grid; an input unit adapted for inputting method information relating to a radiographic method; an imaging controller adapted for determining a target speed of the grid to be used by the grid movement controller; and a display unit adapted for displaying information relating to an effective radiation exposure time range corresponding to the target speed.

The present invention as recited by amended Claim 12 concerns a method adapted for radiographing an object. The method includes the steps of controlling a movement of a grid; inputting method information relating to a radiographic method; determining a target speed of the grid to be used in the controlling step, based on the method information input in the inputting step; and displaying information relating to an effective radiation exposure time range corresponding to the target speed. New Claim 33 concerns a computer-readable storage medium storing a software program which makes a computer execute a process according to this method.

Thus, according to a feature of the invention, a target speed of the grid to be used by the grid movement controller (or to be used in the controlling step) is determined based on the information input by the input unit (or input in the inputting step), with

information relating to an effective radiation exposure time range corresponding to the target speed being displayed.

Griesmer is not seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

At column 7, lines 11 to 33, Griesmer describes a time interval t_2 , during which a grid accelerates to constant velocity and after which X-ray exposure can commence. According to Griesmer, t_2 values are determined by data relating to the time for grids of different sizes and masses to accelerate to a constant velocity, and are stored in the Lookup Table (22).

However, Griesmer is not seen to disclose anything regarding determining a target speed of a grid to be used by a grid movement controller (or in a controlling step).

This is in contrast to the present invention.

For example, in the embodiments discussed at page 22, lines 16 to 23 and page 25, lines 5 to 9 of the present specification, the imaging controller (180) selects a grid table matching the imaging information, and designates the moving speed of the grid (130) based on the selected grid table. The grid movement controller (170) then controls the movement of the grid (130) in accordance with the designated moving speed.

Further, the Office Action concedes that Griesmer does not teach determining an effective radiation exposure time range (see paragraph 7 of the Office Action) or using a display device (see paragraph 8 of the Office Action), let alone displaying information relating to an effective radiation exposure time range corresponding to the target speed of the grid.


None of Tsukamoto, Daniels, Ochmann, Schol, Ammann, and Garland are seen to remedy the deficiencies of Griesmer. Applicant therefore concludes that the

applied references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention either singly or in the combinations proposed by the Office Action, even assuming that such combinations can properly be made. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Section 102 and Section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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